



Billing Code 4165-15

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces plans to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting the ICR to OMB, HRSA seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

DATES: Comments on this ICR must be received no later than **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to *paperwork@hrsa.gov* or mail the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Room 14N-39, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, email

paperwork@hrsa.gov or call the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer at (301) 443-1984.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the information request collection title for reference.

Information Collection Request Title: Small Rural Hospital Transition Project (SRHT)

OMB No. 0906-xxxx – New

Abstract: Under Section 330A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c(e)), the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) funds grant programs supporting expanding access to, coordinating, restraining the cost of, and improving the quality of essential health care services in rural and frontier communities. Small rural hospitals are facing many challenges in the new health care environment, including the concurrent need to better measure and account for quality of care in all settings; improve transitions of care as patients move from one care setting to another; the evolution of new payment approaches such as value-based purchasing; and, new approaches to care delivery such as accountable care organizations (ACO) and patient-centered medical homes. Success in this new environment will require bridging the gaps between the current system and the newly emerging system of healthcare delivery and payment. Because little is known about how these new models might impact rural communities, there is a need to help hospitals understand and consider those factors that would make them logical participants in health care systems that focus on value. The SRHT, also funded by Section 330A, will assist

small rural hospitals facing these challenges. The purpose of the project is to provide on-site technical assistance to nine small rural hospitals residing in persistent poverty counties.

Technical assistance will be provided in the areas of: (1) financial assessments, (2) creating a quality-focused environment, (3) aligning services to community need, and, (4) to the extent that financial and quality core areas have been stabilized, provide assistance to help recipients of technical assistance consider factors that would make them logical participants in health care systems that focus on value (for example ACOs, shared savings programs, primary care medical homes).

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: SRHT includes a deliverable to design processes for developing, receiving, reviewing, and scoring hospital applications for participation in the SRHT project. The processes will ensure that the selection of applicants is consistent with established criteria and hospitals' readiness or ability to implement consultants' recommendations.

Specifically, the application form will be designed to solicit information that will be scored and ranked to aid in the selection of nine small rural hospitals to receive on-site technical assistance.

Likely Respondents: Small rural hospitals located in a rural community, as defined by FORHP, persistent poverty county or a rural census tract of a metro persistent poverty county and have 49 staffed beds or less as reported on the hospital's most recently filed Medicare Cost Report.

Hospitals may be for-profit or not-for-profit.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate,

maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.

Total Estimated Annualized burden hours:

Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
SRHT Online Application	30	38	1140	.50	570
Assessment: Performance Excellence for Rural Hospitals	30	29	870	.25	217.5
Total	30*		2010		787.5

** The same individuals complete the SRHT Online Application and the Assessment for a total of 30 respondents.*

HRSA specifically requests comments on: (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Jason E. Bennett

Director, Division of the Executive Secretariat

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